

W.M.

SHILDON URBAN DISTRICT.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

TO

SHILDON

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

For the Year ending, Dec. 31st, 1913.

S. FIELDEN,

M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health,

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**TO THE SHILDON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1913.

Vital Statistics.

The estimated population of the District at mid-year was 13,911.

The number of inhabited houses was 3,159

The average number of persons per inhabited house was 4·4.

Births.

There were 438 births registered during the year (210 males and 228 females); of these 11 were illegitimate (6 males and 5 females).

This represents a birth-rate of 31·4 per 1000 of population.

Deaths.

190 deaths were registered *in the district*, but of these 3 are to be deducted as of persons who belonged to other districts, ; while 19 are to be added of persons *belonging to*, but who died in Public Institutions, &c. *outside the district*, which brings up the total to be dealt with to 206.

This represents a total death-rate of 14·8 per 1000 of population.

The deaths under the age of 1 year numbered 62, equal to a rate of 4·45 per 1000 of population, and of 141·5 per 1000 registered births, against 86·73 in 1912.

The deaths from the principal Zymotic Diseases, viz. :—Small Pox, Scarlatina, Diphtheria, Fever (Enteric and Continued), Measles, Whooping

Cough, and Diarrhoea) numbered 22, equal to a rate of 1·58 per 1000 of population.

Phthisis caused 14 deaths, equal to a rate of 1·07 per 1000 of population, against 1·45 in 1912.

The deaths from Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy amounted to 34, equal to a rate of 2·5 per 1000 of population.

Injuries of various kinds caused 4 deaths.

The deaths of persons *belonging to the district*, but which took place in the following Public Institutions, &c. *outside of it*, were :—

Royal Albert Institution, Preston	-	-	1
Eldon Colliery	-	-	2
Union Workhouse, Bishop Auckland	-	-	7
Lady Eden Hospital, Bishop Auckland	-	-	3
Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne	-	-	2
Private Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne	-	-	1
Private House, Middlesbrough	-	-	1
County Asylum, Sedgefield	-	-	2
			19

For comparison the following tables show—

1.—Annual Birth rates and Death rates and rates from the 7 chief Epidemic Diseases.

Annual Rates for 1913 per 1000 of Population.				Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Registered Births.
	Births	Deaths from all causes.	Deaths from Epidemic Diseases.	
England & Wales	23·9	13·7	No return	109
Administrative County of Durham	30·6	15·1	1·85	137
Shildon U. District	31·4	14·8	1·58	141·5

2.—Deaths at ages specified in 1913, from all causes.

At all ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and und'r 15	15 and und'r 25	25 and und'r 45	45 and und'r 65	65 and upwards
206	62	16	7	10	6	22	34	49

3.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified in 1913.

	At all ages.	Under 1 year	1 to 5	5 to 15	15-25	25-45	45-65	Over 65
Scarlatina ...	38	--	17	20	1	--	--	--
Diphtheria ...	14	1	12	--	--	1	--	--
Enteric Fever ...	2	--	--	--	1	1	--	--
Puerperal Fever	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Erysipelas ...	11	1	--	1	--	4	2	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	14	--	--	2	2	8	2	--
Other forms of Tuberculosis	12	1	4	3	2	1	1	--
Totals ...	92	3	33	26	7	15	5	3

4. Cases of Infectious Disease notified in :

	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904
Scarlatina ..	38	354	65	31	40	28	45	50	68	94
Diphtheria ..	14	22	42	40	41	47	42	30	55	59
Enteric Fever ..	2	10	13	11	10	26	8	134	33	45
Puerperal Fever	1	-	1	-	1	--	2	-	1	2
Erysipelas ..	11	10	12	7	12	8	16	18	12	10
Totals ..	66	396	133	89	104	109	113	232	169	210

N.—Population, Birth Rate, Death Rate, &c., for 10 years, 1893—1902.

Year	Estimated Population at Mid-Year	Births	Rate per 1000 population.	Deaths under 1 year	Rate per 1000 population registered	Zymotic Diseases Deaths	Rate per 1000 population	Deaths at all ages	Rate per 1000 population.
1893	9,997	355	35·5	85	239	82	8·3	253	25·3
1894	10,209	342	33·5	49	143	7	0·68	14·3	14·2
1895	10,425	393	37·6	77	195	31	2·97	19·5	18·6
1896	10,645	326	30·6	43	131	19	1·78	16·0	15·0
1897	10,871	350	32·1	56	160	15	1·37	18·0	16·5
1898	11,101	356	32·0	80	224	33	2·97	19·2	17·2
1899	11,336	383	33·7	70	182	26	2·28	20·5	18·0
1900	11,576	353	30·4	55	155	18	1·55	18·8	16·2
1901	11,821	404	34·1	76	188	48	4·06	20·6	17·4
1902	12,071	385	31·8	53	137	11	0·91	16·3	13·5
Averages for 10 yrs 1893-1902		373	33·1	64	175	28	2·5	188	17·1

6. -Population, Birth rate, Death rate, &c., for 10 years, 1903-1912.

Year	Estimated Population at Mid-Year	Rate per 1000 Births.	Deaths under 1 year	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Zymotic Diseases Deaths.	Rate per 1000 population.	Deaths at all ages	Rate per 1000 population.
1903	12326	479	38·8	87	181	33	2·67	219
1904	12587	459	36·4	92	200	28	2·20	250
1905	12853	460	35·7	92	167	35	2·70	247
1906	13125	509	38·7	97	190·5	68	5·18	273
1907	13403	433	32·3	79	182	27	2·00	249
1908	13687	514	37·5	52	101	32	2·30	211
1909	13977	456	32·6	44	96·4	20	1·4	196
1910	14272	432	32·69	46	106·4	16	1·12	185
1911	13531	385	28·45	39	101	17	1·25	177
1912	13721	392	28·56	34	86·73	47	3·42	207
Averages for 10 yrs 1903-1912	13,348	448	34	66	141·9	33·6	2·43	220
1913	13911	438	31·4	62	141·5	22	1·58	206
								14·8

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Smallpox.

No case was reported.

Scarlatina.

38 cases were reported, against 354 in 1912. The disease was mostly mild in type, and I am pleased to be able to say that no case had a fatal termination.

Diphtheria.

14 cases were notified, against 22 in 1912. 2 cases terminated fatally.

Enteric Fever.

2 cases were notified, both of which recovered. No insanitary condition was found in or about the houses from which the cases were reported.

Measles.

With the exception of a few sporadic cases, the district was practically free from this disease. In 1912 however, the disease was epidemic in a

severe form, and during the month of April the schools in the district were closed.

Whooping Cough.

This disease was more or less prevalent during the year, but only 1 case terminated fatally.

Diarrhoea and Enteritis.

Diarrhoea was very prevalent during July, August and September, and was the cause of 19 deaths, 12 of which were under the age of 1 year. No doubt climatic conditions contributed largely to this unhappy state of affairs.

Infantile Mortality.

As previously stated, the infantile mortality was much higher than in 1912 when the death-rate under 1 year was the lowest on record. This no doubt was partly due to weather conditions, but I am fully convinced that owing to new regulations with regard to Lady Health Visitors, we, as a district were placed in a most unfortunate position at a critical time. During part of July, the whole of August and September, and part of October, we were without a Lady Health Visitor at all, this being the very period when a Health Visitor is

most useful, owing to the prevalence of diarrhoea amongst infants. In this connection, it may be noted that in 1911 when the weather conditions were much the same as in 1913 the deaths under 1 year numbered 39, as compared with 62 in 1913. At that time (1911) there was a resident Lady Health Visitor working daily in the district, whose visits were welcomed and whose advice was much appreciated.

Tuberculosis.

26 cases were notified, 14 being of Tuberculosis of the lungs, and 12 of Tuberculosis of other organs. All cases notified are visited by the Lady Health Visitor who furnishes a very complete report upon each case, including the house and its general surroundings. At her subsequent visits she sees that the necessary instructions for the prevention of spread of infection are being carried out.

The County Council has established a Tuberculosis Dispensary at Bishop Auckland—2 miles away—of which full advantage is taken for the detection of doubtful cases, and for expert treatment.

Thorough disinfection is carried out after the death of any case of Tuberculosis. Under the Insurance Act, several cases have had Sanatorium treatment with, on the whole, beneficial effect.

During the year 26 cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Tindale Crescent, viz. :

Scarlatina	-	-	17
Diphtheria	-	-	8
Enteric	-	-	1
		—	26

General Sanitation.

During the year I have made frequent inspections of the district, in the course of which many insanitary conditions were discovered and dealt with.

All the sewers in Bolekow Street and Vaughan Street, with the entrance thereto from West Road, have been relaid and manholes built, and the drains from all these houses (52) were also relaid and connected to the sewers; the surface water being as far as possible carried into a separate drainage system. The East side of Auckland Terrace has been re-sewered, and the surface water drain has also received attention. In Garbutt Street the drains have also been put into a satisfactory state. Manholes have been built in Back Auckland Terrace and Back Redworth Road.

The sewers of the town have received a large amount of attention, especially during the summer months, when they were systematically raked and flushed.

Four new front streets and two back streets have been made during the year.

Three new houses were built during the year, one house was converted into two, and an empty house was made habitable. All these were occupied in the course of the year.

Your Inspector informs me that 51 ashpit-privies and ash-closets were converted into water-closets during the year; the total number of water-closets in the district now being 703. I regret to say that there still remain 2415 ash-closets and ashpit-privies in the district, and I would again urge the Council to take every opportunity of adopting the water-carriage system, thereby doing away with these sources of danger to the public health.

During the year 57 houses were carefully disinfected after Infectious Disease, and in all cases of removal to Hospital, infected bedding was stoved or destroyed. The Infant School at New Shildon was also disinfected.

161 informal written notices were served to abate nuisances, and in most cases complied with.

One closing order was served, and the house will be demolished as soon as possible, it having been decided to apply for an ejection order.

Four more houses in Queen Street have been provided with new water-closets, and the remaining two are to be dealt with as soon as possible.

Refuse Destructor and Scavenging.

8018 loads of refuse were destroyed, and 3055 were conveyed to farm land.

The scavenging is done at night by the Council's own workmen, the ash pits being emptied once in 16 days.

A few cases of neglect have been reported.

I understand that the cost of the work for the year was £781 12s. 4d.

Sewage Disposal Works.

These have worked quite satisfactorily on the whole. The Detritus tanks have been emptied weekly and the big settling tanks frequently skimmed so as to prevent the choking of the filters. One of the revolving sprinklers was taken down owing to frequent stoppage, and after being cleaned and repaired has been working well.

The major portion of the land for filtration has been ploughed, and the course of the flow of sewage has been frequently changed.

Housing and Town Planning Act.

950 houses were inspected during the year, and for the most part were in a satisfactory condition, any defects were promptly remedied.

Slaughter Houses.

These were inspected quarterly, and all found in good order.

Cow Sheds and Milk Shops.

These were also inspected quarterly, and no nuisances were discovered.

Factories and Workshops.

There are now 13 Factories and 38 Workshops in the district. All these have been inspected twice during the year—102 visits having been paid. No defects were discovered, all being clean and satisfactory. The W.C. accommodation—separate for the two sexes—was excellent.

Water Supply.

This is obtained from the Weardale and Consett Water Company, which obtains its supply from a distant moorland, and both as regards quality and quantity is very satisfactory.

Sanitary Requirements.

- 1—To continue the abolition of Privy Middens.
- 2—To convert Ash-closets to the Water Carriage system.
- 3—To continue the making of streets.

I have filled in Statistical Forms, and will forward the same to the Home Secretary, the Local Government Board, County Council, &c.

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
S. FIELDEN,
M.O.H.

